

DEATH OF JUDGE SKINNER

The Hon. O. C. Skinner died at his residence in this city at 4 o'clock Sunday morning.

Judge Skinner was 62 years of age, having been born in Oneida County, New York, in 1814. At the age of 15 he sought a home in the West. He first visited the Lake Superior country, and afterwards Prairie du Chien, Milwaukee and Chicago, remaining in each of those places only a short time and finally locating in Peoria County as a farmer. This occupation was not suitable to his active mind, and he went to Cincinnati in 1839 and commenced the study of the law, and two years afterward was engaged in successful practice at the Bar. Almost immediately thereafter, however, appreciating the field then open in Illinois, he removed to Carthage, in Hancock County, and in 1844 came to Quincy, where his reputation as one of the most eminent jurists of the State was made. He was then a law partner of Mr. Warren. In 1851 Mr. Skinner was elected judge of this circuit, and after serving a term in the Legislature, his legal abilities were the more fully recognized by his election as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court. The Bar of Quincy has probably produced no more powerful advocate than was Judge Skinner. Before a jury he was almost uniformly successful, fighting his cause with all the vigor of a brilliant intellect and wonderful resource, coupled with a complete understanding of all the points involved in every case in which he engaged. He retired from the

Supreme Bench and became in a large measure a leader of the political party with which he affiliated. He, however, never sought political preferment. In 1870 he was elected a delegate to the State Constitutional Convention, in which he had the honor to be the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary. During all of these years he was an energetic, public spirited and influential citizen. He was connected with nearly all of the railroad enterprises which have done so much to build up the city. He was president of the Quincy, Carthage & Burlington road, which was by his exertions pushed rapidly to completion.

A few days ago Judge Skinner met with an accident which was the cause of his death. He was out riding in his buggy, when his vehicle came in collision with a wagon, and he was thrown violently to the ground. Although known to be badly hurt, the best was hoped for by his physicians up to Saturday evening, when it became apparent that the internal injuries which he had received would result fatally, and he expired Sunday morning. He leaves a wife and one daughter, the latter a Mrs. Humphrey, of Warsaw, New York.

Judge Skinner was highly respected and honored by all who knew him, for his great legal attainments, his dignity and decisive character as a judge, and the firmness with which he held true friendship with his fellow-men. No man could have been more considerate than he was at all times, and the exceptional indulgence which he bestowed upon his family has been a subject of remark by his more intimate acquaintances.

Friends from the East are expected in Quincy to attend the funeral of the late Judge, and the hour for the obsequies will therefore be announced hereafter.